

Speaking Project: Exploring Ecuador's Monuments and Natural Attractions

Instructions:

1. **Choose a Monument or Natural Attraction:** Each student will select a well-known monument or natural attraction in Ecuador. Some examples:
 - **Monuments:** The Middle of the World (La Mitad del Mundo), Monument to the Heroes of Independence (Quito).
 - **Natural Attractions:** Galápagos Islands, Cotopaxi Volcano, Amazon Rainforest, Quilotoa Lagoon.
 2. **Research the History and Importance:** Students should gather information about the history, significance, and unique features of their chosen place. Encourage them to find interesting facts that will engage their audience.
 3. **Create a Presentation:** The presentation should be 3-5 minutes long, using the **Past Continuous** and **Present Perfect** tenses to describe events and experiences related to their chosen site. Below are guidelines and examples on how to structure their speech.
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Presentation Structure and Language Guidelines:

1. Introduction (Present the Place):

- **Past Continuous Example:** “While I was visiting **La Mitad del Mundo**, I learned that it’s not just a monument but also a cultural museum.” *(The action was happening in the past during the visit.)*
- **Present Perfect Example:** “Many tourists **have visited La Mitad del Mundo** to stand on the equator, but few know about its significance to ancient civilizations.” *(The experience of many tourists connects the past to the present.)*

2. Historical Background:

- **Past Continuous Example:**
“When the scientists were calculating the coordinates for **La Mitad del Mundo**, they realized they were slightly off from the true equator.”
(Describes an ongoing action in the past that led to a discovery.)
- **Present Perfect Example:**
“The monument **has become** one of the most popular landmarks for visitors from around the world.”
(The action happened in the past but continues to impact tourism today.)

3. Personal Experience or Observation:

- **Past Continuous Example:**
“While I was exploring **Cotopaxi National Park**, I saw wild horses running across the

plains.”

(An action in progress during the visit.)

- **Present Perfect Example:**

“I **have never experienced** a volcano as active and impressive as **Cotopaxi**.”

(An experience that is relevant to the present.)

4. Significance for Tourism:

- **Present Perfect Example:**

“The Galápagos Islands **have attracted** nature lovers and scientists for decades, making it one of the most important eco-tourism destinations in the world.”

(Describes the ongoing attraction of the islands to tourists.)

Sample Student Speech:

*"Good afternoon everyone! Today, I'll be talking about **the Galápagos Islands**, one of Ecuador's most famous natural attractions. While I was exploring the islands last summer, I noticed how untouched and pristine the environment was, even though thousands of visitors have been coming here for years. The Galápagos Islands **have been recognized** as a UNESCO World Heritage site, and they **have helped** Ecuador become a leader in eco-tourism.*

*While I was snorkeling near the islands, I saw unique species, like the marine iguana. Many people **have heard** about Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, which was inspired by his research on the islands. Scientists **have been studying** the wildlife here for centuries, and they **have discovered** new species that can't be found anywhere else in the world. Visiting the Galápagos **has been** one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life."*

Final Task:

- **Interaction:** After the presentation, students can ask each other questions using the Past Continuous and Present Perfect.
 - Example: “While you were at **La Mitad del Mundo**, were there any other attractions you explored nearby?” “Have you ever seen the giant tortoises of the Galápagos in person?”